

land in search of "freedom to worship God," and then refused to others the rights which they claimed for themselves.

This nineteenth century is comparatively free from the stain, but not wholly so. Our beloved brother Oncken and his associates have endured great vexation and annoyance in the prosecution of their labours in Germany ; and to this day some of the petty governments of that country throw every obstacle in the way of Baptist effort. Our ministers are fined and imprisoned—our religious assemblies broken up—and the children of our brethren snatched from their parents and taken to the elergy to be sprinkled. Lutherans persecute us in Denmark and Sweden ; and Spanish Jesuits, authorised by their government, have suppressed our mission on the Island of Fernando Po.

But we have not imitated the policy of our enemies. Genuine Baptists cannot persecute. We point to Rhode Island and Roger Williams, and maintain, with that great man, "that the government of the civil magistrate extendeth no further than over the bodies and goods of the subject, and therefore hath no civil power over the soul." We cannot consent to the enforcement of any creed or mode of worship ; nor to the endowment or preferree of any seet ; nor to the imposition of religious tests. We protest against proscription—against pandering to party—against ascendancy ;—whether it be Papal—Protestant—Episcopal — or Presbyterian ascendancy. We demand equal justice for all, and equal right to privileges, honours, and offices. We plead for putting "the right man in the right place," on the ground of fitness only, irrespective of religious profession—as in India, at the present time, Hiindoos, Mussulmans, and Parsees are on the same footing as Christians. And much as we love the Bible, and heartily as we desire that the youth of our land may be thoroughly instructed in it, we ask for no legislative enactment. It is altogether contrary to Baptist principles to enjoin the use of the Bible by human law, or to make it compulsory by penalty, direct or indirect. We